Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELFAS 00018 211303Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02
USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 /040 W
----------211307Z 127209 /53
R 211229Z JAN 77
FM AMCONSUL BELFAST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1546
INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USNAVCOMMSTA LONDONDERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 018

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, UK, EI
SUBJECT: THREAT TO PEACE MOVEMENT UNITY

1. LEADERS PEACE MOVEMENT FACING MOST SERIOUS CRITICISM TO DATE AS CATHOLICS REACT WITH HOSTILITY TO CIARAN MC KEOWN EDITORIAL IN "FORTNIGHT" OF JANUARY 14. MC KEOWN CRITICIZED LEADERSHIP OF BOTH CATHOLIC AND PROTESTANT CHURCHES AS CONFORMIST AND IRRELEVANT IN CONTEXT NORTHERN IRELAND TROUBLE. HE ATTACKED "EXCUSE" BY CLERGYMEN THAT THEY CANNOT SAY WHAT THEY BELIEVE TOO LOUDLY LEST THEY LOSE THEIR CONGREGATIONS. "THEY ARE LIKE THE APOSTLES HIDING IN THE UPPER ROOM DIRECTLY AFTER CHRIST'S DEATH - AN IMAGE WHICH LEAPT TO MIND AT THE SPECTACLE OF BISHOP PHILBIN AND MONSIGNOR MULLALLY LURKING BEHIND THE GATES OF MILLTOWN CEMERY WHILE PEACE MARCHERS WERE BEING STONED ON THE FALLS RALLY."

2. IRISH NEWS OF JANUARY 20 CARRIED LETTER TO EDITOR FROM "ALL PEACE ORGANIZERS AND LEADERS FALLS AND ANDERSONSTOWN" DISASSOCIATING THEMSELVES FROM "....CIARAN MC KEOWN'S INSULTING AND ABSOLUTELY UNTRUE REMARKS ABOUT OUR BISHOP..... AND THANKING DR. PHILBIN FOR WALKING WITH US AND SUPPORTING US...." CONGEN NOTES TWO TARGETS OF ATTACKS DURING THAT
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RALLY WERE CANON PADRAIG MURPHY AND BUSINESSMAN TOM CONATY, KNOWN BOTH FOR THEIR LONG-STANDING INVOLVEMENT IN PEACE EFFORTS AND FOR THEIR LOYALTY TO BISHOP PHILBIN. MC KEOWN ATTACK COULD WEAKEN SUPPORT OF MIDDLE-CLASS CATHOLICS AND PROMINENT CLERGYMAN ALL DENOMINATIONS FOR PEACE MOVEMENT.

3. PEACE MOVEMENT LAUNCHED YOUTH BRANCH WITH RALLY JANUARY 16.

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LEADERS ARE 21 YEAR OLD CATHOLIC FEMALE AND 20 YEAR OLD PROTESTANT MALE. TURNOUT WAS SMALL, LESS THAN 300 BUT IT INTERESTING THAT MANY SECONDARY SCHOOLS FROM BOTH SIDES COMMUNITY WERE REPRESENTED. THESE INCLUDE PRIVATE GRAMMAR SCHOOLS. OTHER SIDE OF COIN WAS PROTEST BY SOME RESIDENTS PROTESTANT NORTH BELFAST FOR USE OF SCHOOLS FOR TALKS BY MAIREAD CORRIGAN. SHE ACCUSED OF "BREAINWASHING" YOUNGSTERS.
SPICER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CATHOLICS, PRESS COMMENTS, PEACE GROUPS, CIVIL DISORDERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Format: TEL
From: BELFAST
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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TAGS: PINT, UK, EI
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